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**Narrator:**                      **Jess Hawley, Jr.**

**OH Number:**                **OH # 2515**

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ADA COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
200 W. Front Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

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We, Jesse Hawley, Jr. and Arthur A. Hart  
(Narrator) (Interviewer)

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Restrictions:

3/23/05

Date of Interview

x Jesse M. Hawley, Jr.  
Narrator's Signature

Arthur A. Hart  
Interviewer's Signature

877 Main Street, Ste 1000

Boise ID 83702 344-6000

Narrator's Address & Phone Number

8035 Crestwood Drive

Boise ID 83704 375-2092

Interviewer's Address & Phone Number

**NARRATOR:** Hawley, Jess B. Jr.  
**INTERVIEWER:** Arthur Hart  
**DATE:** March 23, 2005  
**LOCATION:** Riggins, Idaho  
**PROJECT:** Ada County Historic Preservation Council

OH 2515

Tape Counter	Page No.	Summary
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**TAPE ONE**

0000	0	Introduction.
0004	1	Hart introduced Hawley as a Republican whose grandfather was a "William Jennings Bryan Democrat" who served one term as governor of Idaho in 1912-1913 before he was beaten by James H. Brady, developer of the American Falls Project.
0016	1	Hawley said before his grandfather died in 1929, he educated his sons as lawyers. Jess Hawley, Sr. graduated from Boise High and went to Columbia Law School. In 1903 Jess Hawley Sr. began to practice law with Hawley's grandfather. Hawley described the political tendencies of his grandfather's sons and grandsons. Several of them were named James, after the first James Hawley to come to Idaho.
0033	1	Hawley stated that his younger brother, Jack, became his law partner after graduating from the University of Idaho Law School in the early 1950s. Jack's daughter, Jody Ochoa, volunteered, and was later hired at the Idaho Historical Society. Jody also attended the University of Idaho. Jody's father-in-law owned Victoria's restaurant in Garden City.
0050	2	Hart explained to Hawley that a previous interview had not been recorded properly. Hart said there was "garbled" information that was potentially controversial. He felt that publishing anything from certain "informants" would just stir up trouble. He explained that Merlin Young "had very strong opinions" about specific political persons. The men decided to turn off the recorder. <b>[pause in the recording]</b>
0069	2	Hart and Hawley resumed the interview and attempted to reconstruct the previous interview from poorly taken notes.
0081	3	Hawley said that his grandfather was a territorial attorney for the Idaho Territory before it came into The Union. Hawley understood that his grandfather worked with Borah, but the rest of the previous interview was indiscernible.

<b>Tape Counter</b>	<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Summary</b>
0102	3	Hawley said that in the first interview he had been talking about his firm. Hawley explains he had said he just wanted to hire good lawyers; he didn't care what their political views were.
0107	3	Hart and Hawley decided to go over the notes from the previous interview in order to attempt to make sense of them.
0112	3	<b>END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1</b> <b>END OF RECORDING</b>

**NAMES AND PLACES INDEX      0 H   2515**

American Falls Project  
Boise High School (Boise, Idaho)  
Borah, William  
Brady, James H.  
Bryan, William Jennings  
Columbia Law School  
Garden City, Idaho  
George Washington Law School  
Hart, Arthur  
Hawley Sr., Jess  
Hawley, Dr. James H.  
Hawley, Jack  
Hawley, James  
Idaho Falls, Idaho  
Idaho Territory  
Pocatello, Idaho  
University of Idaho Law School (Moscow, Idaho)  
Victoria's Restaurant (Garden City, Idaho)  
Young, Merlin

**ROUGH DRAFT**  
**USE WITH TAPE**

OH 2515

①

This is Arthur Hart; I'm talking to Jess Hawley on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005.

**Hart:** I'm very interested in your family history Jess; this may not be relevant to the book of the courthouse. I know your grandfather James I as we call him down at the historical society.

**Hawley:** He's got enough pictures down there.

**Hart:** He was a democrat, how come all the rest of you turned out to be republicans?

**Hawley:** Well, he would be a republican today. I'm sure because they just switched 180 degrees, practically but he was the ... My father was a republican, and I kind of naturally followed in his leadership there. Granddad was a democrat but only served one term from 1912-1913. He was knocked by Brady.

**Hart:** Oh, James H. Brady from Pocatello.

**Hawley:** No, Idaho Falls, I think.

**Hart:** Pocatello originally. He was the developer of the American Falls project. Why do you suppose he was a democrat? Was he a Williams Jennings Brian democrat, a Cleveland democrat?

**Hawley:** Of course I was just a child when he was. Well he died in 1929 when I was youngster then.

**Hart:** He must have had an influence in getting the family to all go into the law.

**Hawley:** Yes, he did. He educated his sons as lawyers. My dad Jess Hawley Sr. graduated from Boise High and went directly from Boise High to Columbia Law School, which is now George Washington, and directly out of high school to law school and then came up to start practicing law with my grandfather in 1903.

**Hart:** I knew Uncle Jim. We call him James II

**Hawley:** He was a hard democrat. Uncle Jim was a hard democrat. Followed in my grandfathers footsteps and he also ran one time for senate and his son ran for the house one time. Unsuccessfully both of them.

**Hart:** What was his son's name?

**Hawley:** James, the same. I have a... There was the governor James Hawley, his son James Hawley and his grandson James Hawley and my brother Dr. James H. Hawley.

**Hart:** It gets rather confusing! Well, obviously had great respect for the patriarch. The first Hawley to come to Idaho, I'm sure. And of course his story is well known. Now was your younger brother.

**Hawley:** Yes, Jack he was my younger brother and became my law partner in the early 50's after he graduated from the University of Idaho Law School.

**Hart:** Now, Jody is his daughter?

**Hawley:** Yes, Jody is Jack's daughter.

**Hart:** Yeah, she worked for me at the historical society and she still does.

**Hawley:** Yeah.

**Hart:** Jody started out with ambition to work in a museum and she took the \_\_\_\_\_ course at the University of Idaho and she couldn't get a job anywhere so she did a very smart thing which I've advised other young people to do. She was living at home and came down and said can I at least volunteer? You always like \_\_\_\_\_. I think it was only about a year of Jody volunteering before we found a way to hire her.

**Hawley:** Worked her into a position. That's great! And she's still there.

**Hart:** We have others who started as volunteers who are now permanent. So they had the qualifications we just had to wait for an opening.

**Hawley:** Right.

**Hart:** Well, I'm a great admirer of Jody's and the young man that she married I know his father really well.

**Hawley:** Oh, he had his restaurant. Ochoa.

**Hart:** Yeah, they called it Victoria's I think.

**Hawley:** I think so right, out in Garden City.

**Hart:** We got acquainted there. In the old days we used to try to have some kind of national Christmas celebration other than just the regular. So when we had the Mexican one Mr. Ochoa played his trumpet. It was great.

**Hawley:** That's wonderful.

**Hart:** Well what I brought along is the interview that was done a year and half or so ago.

**Hawley:** Uh huh.

**Hart:** I have to tell you... Did Diane sit down with you face to face?

**Hawley:** Yes. She had some kind of recorder.

**Hart:** She didn't tape it. In fact she told me once all these interviews by typing fast because she had been a court reporter and so she used her laptop computer or she may have interviewed you on the telephone.

**Hawley:** She was person to person. Seems to me said do you mind if I record this.

**Hart:** She didn't do it with the tape recorder because there are no tapes. Everything that Diane had was turned over to me.

**Hawley:** I accept that.

**Hart:** I'm saying all this Jess, so you'll understand what I've been working with.

**Hawley:** Okay

**Hart:** And if it comes out garbled you'll know why. I've had a few informants who were pretty blunt.

**Hawley:** I've that way with you down at \_\_\_\_\_ club.

**Hart:** But there is no point in publishing it because it's something that could stir up controversy where don't need controversy.

**Hawley:** I'm not going to hurt anybody and I never would.

**Hart:** Okay, well Merlin Young had very strong opinions about some people that you and I both know. I don't whether or not you can guess at least two politicians that he detested. He said he never trusted them, they lied to him and he would never trust them again.

**Hawley:** Shut that off for a minute.

**Hart:** Sure.

**Hawley:** and a

**Hart:** Okay, here is what I have been able to translate but in order for you to understand it, lets go toward the back, about the third page from the back, where it starts out my younger Jack and I practiced together for years. Where that line is drawn across starting with Hawley and Hawley, I just want you to glance at that and see how rough these notes were. There are a lot of things that I have to reconstruct.

**Hawley:** I appreciate that.

**Hart:** So that part I just decided I won't even try to translate that. See if you can tell me

what that's about. So much of it is misspelled and words like that. She was just typing as fast as she could. But it was not, see in that second line.. "It really was a?" What? Can you guess what that would be?

**Hawley:** \_\_\_\_\_ came down from

**Hart:** From something, probably from territorial days

**Hawley:** My grandfather was territorial attorney for the Idaho territory before it came in the union, those were things that I was telling her.

**Hart:** I can't make heads or tails of it.

**Hawley:** And had a \_\_\_\_\_

**Hart:** Probably trial

**Hawley:** I tell you this doesn't make any damn sense

**Hart:** No.

**Hawley:** He was marvelous to try a case whether \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hart:** That I can understand. Well he and Borah worked together very well they were often on opposite sides.

**Hawley:** Opposite sides.

**Hart:** I guess that next paragraph; the word m \_\_\_\_\_ of secrets there damn few I didn't like a few some ornery ones you loved to rough up a little so I think you're talking you're talking about people you faced in trials?

**Hawley:** Oh man, oh man! I was talking she's got everything mixed up.

**Hart:** Well I figured that was probably the case. See was supposed to have edited all this herself and I'd almost like to leave out all of that stuff because probably you can't even figure it out.

**Hawley:** Just let me look for a minute. She was talking about my firm. Never asked about politics or religion. I remember making a crack I didn't care if they were republican, democrat, communist, \_\_\_\_\_ or whatever. We didn't care we just wanted good styled lawyers we'd get along with and have integrity and we did! We just had...

**Hart:** Well that's a statement I can straighten out. Some of that \_\_\_\_\_ I understand. Why don't we start at the top on the first page and let you just look through that and catch obviously mixed up.

**Hawley:** Alright

**Hart:** Because there are some peoples names that were so misspelled that I couldn't tell who they were. ( Tape stopped and appears to be blank)

AH/mgm



**ABSTRACT**  
**Hawley, Jess B. Jr.**  
**CB 1415**

**OH 2515**

In his interview with Arthur Hart on March 23, 2005, Jess Hawley, co-founder of the Hawley Troxell Law Firm, gives a brief family history. Hawley spoke about the Hawley family history beginning with his grandfather, James Hawley. This interview is an attempt to reconstruct a previous interview that was poorly documented. This interview was conducted by Arthur Hart as part of his research about the Ada County Courthouse.